

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04435 291748Z

55

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 INRE-00

/066 W

----- 052475

O 291404Z SEP 76 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5715
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4435

USIA FOR IOP; IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTING: RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS:

SUMMARY: RHODESIA CONTINUES TO FEATURE IN RSA PRESS REPORTING, BUT DIMINISHED EDITORIAL TREATMENT SEPT 29. REPORTING FOCUSED ON THESE POINTS: 1) BLACK RHODESIA NATIONALIST LEADER NKOMO'S DENIAL THAT KISSINGER PROPOSALS WERE REJECTED BY FRONTLINE FIVE AT WEEKEND LUSAKA PARLEY; 2) SMITH'S OVERTURE TO BRITISH TO START PROCEDURAL TALKS; 3) NYERERE'S STATEMENT HE WAS TOLD KISSINGER HAD "YIELDED" TO SMITH ON QUESTION OF WHITE PORTFOLIOS IN TRANSITIONAL GOVT; 4) SECRETARY'S ASSERTION FROM WASHDC HE WAS HOPEFUL OF RAPID AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.

IN EDITORIAL COMMENT SEPT 29 JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BEELD"
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04435 291748Z

SAID " ONE THING IS CLEAR ABOUT THE RHODESIAN ISSUE. DR KISSINGER

ACHIEVED WHAT THE BRITISH COULD NOT ACHIEVE IN ELEVEN YEARS--
PERSUADE MR SMITH TO ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS-- THE
U.S. SPELLED OUT THE MATTER IN SUCH A WAY MR SMITH HAD TO MAKE A
CARDINAL CONCESSION. THE BALL IS NOW IN THE BRITISH COURT AND THEY
AND THE WHITE AND BLACK RHODESIANS MUST GET BUSY WITH A
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE."

CAPE TOWN ENGLISH PAPER "CAPE TIMES" SUGGESTED IN EDITORIAL SEPT
29 "THE IMPASSE OVER RHODESIA WOULD APPEAR TO BE MOST EASILY AND
RAPIDLY RESOLVED BY THE U.K. INSTALLING A GOVERNOR IN RHODESIA..
SUCH A MOVE WOULD NOT ONLY BE A LOGICAL AND PRACTICAL WAY OUT OF
THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, BUT WOULD ACCORD WITH CONSTITUTIONAL
NICETIES."

CAPE TOWN AFRIKAANS PAPER SAID IN SEPT 29 EDITORIAL THE RHODESIAN
SITUATION HAD "IMPOSED A DIFFICULT HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE
U.S. AND U.K., MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED
BEFORE SMITH'S STATEMENT FRIDAY NIGHT. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF
RESCUING RHODESIA FROM THIS POSITION IS THEIRS BECAUSE THEY ARE
THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN. THEY HAVE FORCED RHODESIA ON THE PATH TO
MAJORITY RULE, FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN.. ACCEPTANCE OF THE
PEACE PLAN IS BASED ON ASSURANCES THE U.S. AND U.K. MUST CARRY
OUT. THE U.S. AND U.K. MUST ACT TO PRESERVE THEIR OWN HONOR AND
CREDIBILITY."

WILF NUSSEY, HIGHLY RESPECTED EDITOR OF ARGUS NEWSPAPER GROUP'S
AFRICA NEWS SERVICE WROTE EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMN IN "THE STAR"
SEPT 28 IN WHICH HE NOTED DIFFICULTY FACING BLACK FRONTLINE
PRESIDENTS. "BLAND ACCEPTANCE OF WHAT MR SMITH SAID WOULD MAKE
THEM HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO POLITICALLY DANGEROUS ACCUSATIONS FROM
MILITANT BLACKS THAT THEY HAVE SIMPLY SOLD OUT, BECAUSE NO AFRICANS
TRUST MR SMITH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE HE WILL NOT TRY SOMEHOW TO TWIST
CONTINUED WHITE DOMINANCE OUT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION." NUSSEY
OFFERED FOLLOWING SCENARIO: "I BELIEVE THE KEY TO THE APPARENT
NEW CONFRONTATION LIES IN MR SMITH'S STATEMENT THAT RHODESIA
ACCEPTED THE PACKAGE BECAUSE THE U.K. AND U.S. HAD GUARANTEED TO
LIFT SANCTIONS AND END THE GUERRILLA ATTACK. SANCTIONS LIFTING
SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH BECAUSE BRITAIN INITIATED THEM AND THE U.N.
HAS EVER SINCE FOLLOWED THE BRITISH LEAD. BUT NONE OF THE
FIGURES IN THE NEGOTIATING HAS GIVEN A CLUE HOW THE WAR CAN BE
ENDED. IT IS FAR TOO DELICATE AN ASPECT TO OPEN TO PUBLIC VIEW.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04435 291748Z

BUT THIS IS A POSSIBLE SCENARIO: BLACK AFRICA HAS ALWAYS INSISTED
THAT RHODESIA IS A BRITISH PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS STILL A BRITISH
COLONY, LEGALLY. IF RHODESIAN BLACKS AND WHITES GOT TOGETHER AND
WERE SEEN TO BE GENUINELY WORKING FOR MAJORITY RULE IN TWO
YEAR, BRITAIN COULD- WITH SANCTIONS OUT OF THE WAY- LEGALLY
MOVE IN TO HELP COMBAT THE GUERRILLA ATTACKERS IF THEY PERSIST
IN FIGHTING. AND THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP BRITAIN ASKING THE
U.S. NOW THAT WASHINGTON IS SO INVOLVED, TO HELP TOO. THEY WOULD

BE DEFENDING NOT THE SMITH REGIME BUT RHODESIAN WHITES AND
BLACKS AGAINST AGGRESSION. RSA COULD DO ITS BIT BY PUTTING VERY
CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON MOZAMBIQUE. AFTER ALL, IT HAS
DONE SO ON RHODESIA."

NUSSEY ENDED BY SAYING U.S. HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO CONFRONT USSR
OVER " MEDDLING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA... RUSSIA STANDS TO LOSE MORE IN
WORLD-WIDE TERMS, PERHAPS, THAN IT CAN GAIN BY CONTINUED
ADVENTURISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

HUGHES

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR04435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760367-0955
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976097/aaaaafsp.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <11 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTING: RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS: SUMMARY: RHODESIA CONTINUES TO FEATURE IN RSA PRESS REPORTING, BUT DIMINISHED EDITORIAL TREATMENT SEPT 29. REPORTING
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, SF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USIA
STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006